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*The Metaphysics of Nature*, by CARVETH READ. 2d ed. Adam and Charles Black, London, 1908. 372 p.

Here is a metaphysician who declares that certain shortcomings in his composition were due to the fact that he wrote "in constant dread of wearying the reader with verbiage and commonplaces." This second edition contains additions on the following subjects: truth, consciousness, transcendental being, and moral freedom. In the introduction, he treats of belief and knowledge, reality and truth. The first canonic book deals with tests of truth, historic and analytic, scepticism, and the relativity of knowledge. Book II, Cosmology, deals with substance in experience, ontology of the world, universal forms of the phenomenon. The third book is on psychology and treats of the subject in experience, and ontology and natural history. The last book is devoted to the categories, which are, first, abstract or those of relation in general, and qualitative and quantitative relations; and, second, physical, such as atoms, ether, rest, change identity, motion, force, inertia, mass, elasticity, incompressibility, mechanics, etc., and, lastly, the categories of subjective activity, parallelism, interaction, will, final causes, human ends, man and society.

*The Philosopher's Martyrdom*, by PAUL CARUS. Open Court Publishing Co., Chicago, 1908. 67 p.

This is an interesting and stimulating book; a little more of the dramatic element put into it and it would be fit for the stage. The author's idea seems to be to bring the wise and truly philosophical agnostic of the Spencerian type in contact with a rather long series of representatives of other points of view,—priests, spiritualists, society people, etc. In the end Mr. Agnosto was shipwrecked, captured by cannibals, fattened and eaten to make them a Thanksgiving day. His memory is still kept green on Cannibal Island because he furnished them with the tenderest, daintiest Thanksgiving meal they ever enjoyed.

*The Old and the New Magic*, by HENRY RIDGELY EVANS. Open Court Publishing Co., Chicago, 1906. 348 p.

We have here a very interesting and copiously illustrated work which deals with the history of prestidigitation. The lives of Pinetti, Cagliostro, Houdin, and others down to Houdini, the secrets of second sight, modern thaumaturgism, magicians I have met, the riddle of the sphynx, Treweyism, are some of the chapters. The practical parlor magician is given a great many very interesting hints. The striking fact about this book is that many modern tricks of great commercial value are exposed.

*The Naturalization of the Supernatural*, by FRANK PODMORE. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1908. 374p.

This interesting book of a fertile author uses data largely from the unpublished journal of the Society for Physical Research. After a general introduction rehearsing the story of the foundation of the Society, the following chapters constitute the book: Experimental Thought-transference; Spontaneous Thought-transference—Mind's Eye Visions; Spontaneous Thought-transference—Coincident Dreams; On Hallucinations in General; Telepathic Hallucinations; Poltergeists; Spiritualism; On Communication with the Dead; Phantasms of the Dead; Haunted Houses; Messages Received through Trance and Automatism; The Case of Mrs. Piper; On Clairvoyance and Prevision. The marked feature of it is the progress toward an attitude of critical or suspended judgment with regard to the fundamental problem of

spiritualism and even regarding Mrs. Piper, who is coming to be perhaps more than any other individual the *pièce de resistance* of the English Society.

*The Theosophist*, February, 1909. Edited by Anne Besant. 189 p.

The very voluminousness of this work, founded by Mme. Blavatsky and Mr. Olcott, itself bears striking witness to the size and vigor of the circle that it represents. Theosophists now have learned to make many connections with daily life. They review current magazines, have much to say about science, the ethics of competition, separateness and unity in daily life. It is evident, too, that it fares well with theosophy in other lands. The Oriental note that runs through all is very strongly accentuated.

*The Psychology of Singing*, by David C. Taylor. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1908. 371 p.

A peculiar gap exists between the accepted, theoretical basis of singing and the actual methods of vocal teachers. The number of scientific treatises would lead us to infer that we have a coherent science of voice culture. This, however, is not the case. To reach a basis for this, one must have insight into the operations of the voice by listening, and then must levy tribute upon anatomy and acoustics. The author has accordingly divided his work into three parts. The first describes the methods of instruction in singing, tone production, voice culture, breathing, registers, resonance, empirical material of methods; the second, a critical analysis of them, the mechanical, vocal management being the basis, describes the fallacies of the doctrine of breath control, of forward emission, chest and nasal resonance. In the third part, the author evolves the basis of a real science of the voice, based on sympathetic sensations of vocal tone, empirical knowledge, the precepts of the old Italian school and of the modern school. And in part fourth, he applies vocal science to practical voice culture, tells us the causes of throat stiffness and of incorrect vocal action, the true meaning of vocal training, intimations of the rational method and its materials; with a final outline of the practical method of vocal culture. His book is very lucidly written and printed, and cannot fail to interest and instruct all concerned. The Appendix contains an interesting bibliography.

*Friedrich Schleiermachers Weihnachtsfeier*. Kritische Ausgabe, by Hermann Mulert. Dürr'sche Buchhandlung, Leipzig, 1908. (Philosophische Bibliothek, Band 117.)

*Einführung in die Erkenntnistheorie*, von Dr. AUGUST MESSER. Dürr'sche Buchhandlung, Leipzig, 1909. 199 p. (Philosophische Bibliothek, Band 118.)

*René Descartes' philosophische Werke. Dritte Abteilung, die Prinzipien der Philosophie*, von Dr. ARTUR BUCHENAN. Dürr'sche Buchhandlung, Leipzig, 1908. 310 p. (Philosophische Bibliothek, Band 28.)

*Ueber Tierpsychologie. Zwei Vorträge*, von L. EDINGER und Ed. CLAPARÈDE. Johann Ambrosius Barth, Leipzig, 1909. 67 p.

*Man and the Universe*, by OLIVER LODGE. Methuen & Co., London, 1908. 356 p.

*Psychotherapy*. A course of reading in sound psychology, sound medicine and sound religion. Edited by W. B. Parker. Vol. 1, No. 2. Centre Publishing Co., N. Y., 1908. 96 p.